



The Pinky Promise

by SAILESH RAO

Illustrations by Kimaya Rao,
Roxanne Chappell and Niharika Desiraju



PROLOGUE by JUDY CARMAN

Praise for
The Pinky Promise

"Facing the reality of climate change can evoke feelings of helplessness. But *The Pinky Promise* shows us another, more hopeful path, and helps us find the innocence, humility and courage that we so greatly need in these times"

— John and Ocean Robbins, *President and CEO
of Food Revolution Network*

"*The Pinky Promise* is a reminder that the solutions to the current environmental disaster are simple enough to be understood by even children, if we shared their clarity of wisdom"

— Keegan Kuhn, *co-director of Cowspiracy and
What The Health*

"In *The Pinky Promise*, Dr. Sailesh Rao, inspired by his granddaughter Kimaya, makes the case that the key to solving our climate emergency is the innocent human heart, if only we will access its message. And all we have to do to prove the author right, and thereby save the world, is to take the simple action of eating only human food--plants. Surely that's not too much to ask?"

— Glen Merzer, *author of Food Is Climate and
Own Your Health*

"*The Pinky Promise* should be read by young and old, especially by those unaware of the importance of changing

to a starch-based vegan diet in order to leave our children and grandchildren a livable planet"

— John McDougall, MD, best-selling author and
Founder of the McDougall Program

"Sailesh Rao's ode to kindness and co-existence is a wake-up call to a struggling world. With simplicity and laser focus, Dr. Rao explains why the human race needs to change... immediately. And, in what should give us a burst of hope, he shows us that it's a very simple change we can all make right now"

— Jane Velez-Mitchell, journalist, best-selling
author and Founder of UnchainedTV

"Imagine the world we would have if everyone realized what Sailesh Rao understood when he first held his granddaughter, Kimaya: we have the capacity to recognize that we are one family, and we must cultivate our compassion and courage so that we restore our planet, protect and care for its myriad species, and live with kindness and wisdom. *The Pinky Promise* promises to help us each find our way to such a life"

— Zoe Weil, President and Co-Founder of
Institute for Humane Education

"An important book brimming with a grandfather's love, wisdom and commitment to take action for a just, compassionate and healthy world for all of Life. The heartfelt illustrations of Kimaya imbue the book with the sensibilities of an extraordinary young warrior dedicated to creating a world of kindness and compassion. Together Sailesh and Kimaya are inspiring people worldwide to awaken to the

devastating consequences of our current food system and to unite immediately and uncompromisingly for a world rooted in the principles of Ahimsa. I thoroughly enjoyed the book, and know it has the power to touch hearts and minds across age groups and cultures"

— *Dr. Shelley Ostroff, Co-Creator of
Codes for a Healthy Earth*

"*The Pinky Promise* is one of the most inspiring and beautiful combinations of stories and facts I have ever read. The simple stories and illustrations have depth and special meaning for us during this period of time for life on earth. It is a beacon for transformation"

— *Rebecca Allen, certified Climate Healer and
Co-Founder of Immune Boosters*

"The prophet Isaiah spoke of a future time of peace on earth that included all beings. He also stated that, at this time, '...a little child shall lead them.' I felt that prophecy taking shape in this heartfelt book by Dr. Sailesh Rao. A systems engineer with a passion to solve our planet's ecological woes at their source, Rao was inspired to become a 'Climate Healer' by his granddaughter and spiritual teacher, Kimaya. In *The Pinky Promise* we get to know them both, as we come to understand that this mission of saving Earth and her inhabitants is far less about governments and corporations, conferences and projections, than it is about love — love that is felt within us and for all life. When we act from that love, we'll HEAL our world."

— *Victoria Moran, author of The Good Karma
Diet and Co-Founder of The Compassion
Consortium*

"Sailesh Rao's honest and brave book centers on a pinky promise with his granddaughter and is a call for all parents and grandparents to let the younger generation guide us in our recovery."

— *Simon Whalley, author of Dear Indy: A Father's
Plea for Climate Action*

"Dr. Rao's aspirational, clever, and highly educational book is a must read for anyone who cares about the future of our planet."

— *Kip Andersen, co-director of Cowspiracy,
What the Health and Seaspiracy*

"*The Pinky Promise* is a heartwarming reminder that the best way to plan for a better future is to connect with those who will one day embrace it."

— *Alex Lockwood, BAFTA winning director of
73 Cows*

"Touching, passionate, and heartbreaking. Sailesh Rao takes readers through the story of him and his granddaughter, the three promises he made to her, and the climate crisis. This story is a great example of the importance of life-long learning, unconditional love, and challenging long-standing ideas."

— *Erin Epel, School of Sustainability,
Arizona State University*

"As a decorated systems engineer with a background in computer systems, Sailesh has always been known for his academic and technical brilliance. He has a talent for

taking complex concepts and explaining them in simple, understandable terms, which he puts to great use in *The Pinky Promise*. In the book, narrated by Sailesh, he discusses important topics related to healing the planet with his granddaughter, Kimaya. It's heartwarming to see Sailesh use his skills and experience to better humanity and convey the essence of healing the planet through the voices of Kimaya and the next generation. *The Pinky Promise* is sure to have a powerful impact on its readers."

— Guru Pangal, VP/GM Google Cloud

"In this charming and provocative story, the author — Sailesh Rao — demonstrates the rare quality of an adult who decides to trust in the wisdom of a child and then fully commits himself to participate in that promise wherever it takes them. The reader is treated to journeying with grandfather and granddaughter as they travel into their bond of trust. The story inspires us to find someone, or some idea, with whom, or in which, we can live with openness and surrender, and how that might spur us to take action in surprising ways."

— Suzanne McAllister, Ph. D., co-founder, Pauw Project
& organizer, Vegan Spirituality Group of Philadelphia

"Dr. Rao is my guru, teacher, Gandhi and friend. Dr. Rao is a systems engineer and I love the way he breaks the challenges we face as humanity into solutions that we can all take as a call to action to make this world a better place. *The Pinky Promise* that he gave to his granddaughter should serve as an inspiration to all generations to leave a bountiful and abundant planet for our future generations."

— Dolly Vyas-Ahuja, Producer of the award
winning documentary, *The Land Of Ahimsa*

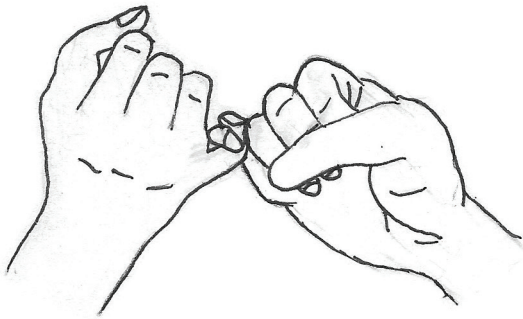
"The best way to predict the future is to create it. *The Pinky Promise* brings us back to reality, making us see things in a new light. The end to this long period of anxiety and emptiness will be replaced by peace — but only if we decide to honor life. If, unlike Dr. Rao, you don't have a child or grandchild to make a promise to, swear a pinky promise with yourself and rescue the sacred and meaning in your life. This book shows that the solution is simple and in plain sight. What's getting in your way?"

— *Dr. Camila Perussello, author of Food for Thought: Planetary Healing Begins on Our Plate*

"*The Pinky Promise* addresses the greatest challenges faced by humanity and does so with compassion, love and a wonderful sense of optimism. It is beautiful and empowering."

— *Dr. Neal Barnard, MD, FACC, President, Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine*

The Pinky Promise



by Sailesh Rao

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Roxanne Chappell and Niharika Desiraju

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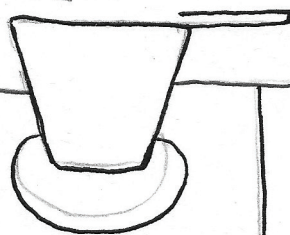
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*“The wise
hear and
see as little
children
do.”*

- Lao Tzu

INGREDIENTS : LEGUMES, VEGGIES,
GRAINS, HERBS, TUMERIC, LOVE



Unity Stew ♥

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About the Author and Illustrators

Sailesh Rao, Kimaya Rao, Roxanne Chappell and
Niharika Desiraju

Sailesh Rao is the Founder and Executive Director of Climate Healers, a non-profit dedicated towards healing the Earth's climate. He is a systems engineer, Human, Earth and Animal Liberation (HEAL) activist, husband, dad and since 2010, a star-struck grandfather. The Pinky Promise recounts how and why he promised his granddaughter, Kimaya, that the world will be largely Vegan before she turns 16 in 2026, so that people will stop eating her relatives, the animals. He has faith that humanity will transform to keep his pinky promise to Kimaya, not just for ethical reasons, but also out of sheer ecological necessity. He has created a Climate Bathtub model to help humanity understand the solution space for enabling a thriving planet and reversing climate change, which clearly shows the ecological necessity for realizing a Vegan World as soon as possible and certainly before 2026.

Kimaya Rao is in sixth grade at a Montessori School in Phoenix, AZ and she is the primary illustrator for the book. She loves art, volleyball and spending time with her friends and family, including three cats—Miss Ruka, Freddy and Miro—and a bunny rabbit, Almond. Her mother, Roxanne Chappell, contributed four of the illustrations including the cover art, while the Wishing Tree illustration was contributed by Niharika Desiraju for *Carbon Dharma: The Occupation of Butterflies*.

*“As we return to our
true childlike nature of
awe and wonder, we
will remember how to
love our earth family
and heal the damage
we have done.”*

- Judy McCoy Carman

Prologue

By Judy McCoy Carman, M.A.

This is the story of a devoted grandfather, Sailesh Rao; the wisdom he learned from his beloved granddaughter, Kimaya; and the promise he made to her to do his part to save the world and those who live here. His vow to her reminded me of a song written by John Denver. John sings in "Rhymes and Reasons,"

"It is here we must begin to seek the wisdom of the children
and the graceful way of flowers in the wind.
For the children and the flowers are my sisters and my brothers,
their laughter and their loveliness could clear a cloudy day.
Like the music of the mountain and the colors of the rainbow,
they're a promise of the future and a blessing for today.

Though the cities start to crumble and the towers fall around us,
The sun is slowly fading and it's colder than the sea.
It is written: From the desert to the mountains they shall lead us,
By the hand and by the heart, they will comfort you and me.
In their innocence and trusting they will teach us to be free.
For the children and the flowers are my sisters and my brothers,
Their laughter and their loveliness could clear a cloudy day,
And the song that I am singing is a prayer to non-believers,
Come and stand beside us. We can find a better way."

If you are noticing the destruction taking place all around us—the ravages caused by animal agriculture to the seas, the forests, the land, the precious air we breathe, the extinction of wild animals, along with massive starvation and disease around the world—this story of a grandfather's love and willingness to listen to the wisdom of a child will give you the faith and reason for action that you need.

This book is truly a sacred and powerful prayer to “come and stand beside us” and “find a better way.” We adults have lived as Homo Sapiens too long, believing that we could dominate, exploit and, yes, kill whomever appears to be in the way. But by listening to his granddaughter, Kimaya, Sailesh is here with her pointing us to the “greatest transformation in human history.”

As we open our hearts to the innocence and pure love of children, we learn, as Kimaya knows, “all life is one family,” and we don't use or eat anyone in our family. The transformation of humanity from Homo Sapiens to Homo Ahimsa¹ is essential if we are to find our true nature as partners with, not dominators of, all life. We are not here to destroy life as we have been doing, but rather to embrace and adore and celebrate life. As we return to our true childlike nature of awe and wonder, we will remember how to love our earth family and heal the damage we have done. May we all commit, in our own unique ways, to a Pinky Promise with all the children of earth. May we find our true path to our highest nature as the loving human, Homo Ahimsa.² May all beings be happy. May all beings be free.

—

Notes:

1. “Ahimsa” is the Sanskrit word for “non-harm.” Its broader meaning includes lovingkindness, nonviolence, and compassion for all earthlings. Mahatma Gandhi took a vow of ahimsa. His nonviolent resistance, based on ahimsa values and “truth force,” inspired the world.

2. "Homo Ahimsa" is our true nature. It is described in the books *Peace to All Beings* and *Homo Ahimsa*. A clear vision of it is seen on manifesto - *Climate Healers* which states, "We imagine a world in which people can put on their Chrysalis avatars to leave their Caterpillar past behind and join together as true equals but each with unique gifts in a cooperative effort to depollute and regenerate the Earth in preparation for the birth of the Butterfly (Homo Ahimsa) stage of humanity."

*This prologue is offered with deep respect and gratitude to Kimaya and Sailesh by Judy McCoy Carman, M.A., Author: **Homo Ahimsa: Who we Really are and how we're going to save the world** and **Peace to All Beings: Veggie Soup for the Chicken's Soul** (peacetoadllbeings.com); Interfaith Vegan Coalition (idausa.org)*

Preface

It has been a little over twelve years since our granddaughter Kimaya entered my life and began transforming it from the inside out. I had been meaning to chronicle this transformation for a while, but never got around to it until I fell violently ill with a stomach bug in the city of Surat, Gujarat during our 2022 Compassion tour of India, promoting Dolly Vyas-Ahuja's award-winning documentary, *The Land Of Ahimsa*.

As I was recuperating in Surat while the rest of our team continued with the Compassion tour, I began to write down the key events that happened during the first six years of my life journey with Kimaya. The words in this book literally poured out of me and I had the first draft of the book completed by the time I left Surat a week later. Little did I know when I wrote these down that the 12 chapters in the book would form a 12-step program for our transformation from Homo Sapiens Sapiens (Latin for the "wise, wise hominid"), a narcissistic, predatory, Climate HEATing "taker" species to Homo Ahimsa (Latin + Sanskrit for the "non harming hominid"), a humble, compassionate, Climate Healing, caretaker species.

Here are the 12 steps for The Homo Ahimsa Transformation (THAT) based on the 12 chapters of this book — in order:

Step 1: Admit that we are ignorant and that our lives have become unmanageable. (1. *The Most Amazing Thing*)

As with the 12-step program of Alcoholics Anonymous, the first step in THAT is to be humble enough to acknowledge that what we don't know far exceeds what we know and that what we know for sure, just may not be so.

Step 2: Come to believe that little children can lead us to sanity. (2. *The Move to Phoenix*)

As the scales fall from our eyes and we begin to see the insanity of what we do in our global industrial civilization, we realize that we have been conditioned by powerful external forces to behave the way we do. At that point, it is best to reset by spending time with little children who have not yet been conditioned by those same powerful forces.

Step 3: Make a decision to turn our will over to them and learn from them. (3. *The Three Promises*)

It is not enough to just spend time with children, but it is also necessary to establish a relationship, based on love and trust, where the children are the teachers and we are the learners.

Step 4: Recognize that all the games we play may need to be transformed. (4. *Infinite Games*)

As human beings, we coordinate our actions among millions and even billions of us by playing games. The games we play today are mainly competitive games with one winner and a whole lot of "losers". While such "finite games" may have been appropriate for the Climate HEATING phase of our existence, they are no longer appropriate for the Climate Healing phase that we are entering today.

Step 5: Recognize that all the stories we tell may need to be

transformed. (5. *What is Wrong With Dasaratha?*)

As human beings, we also coordinate our relationships among millions and even billions of us by telling stories. The stories we tell today are mainly violent so that we instinctively seek protection from a powerful father figure. Even our fairy tales and nursery rhymes have babies falling from trees, children being eaten by witches, children being drowned by pipers, and so on, ad nauseum.

Step 6: Learn that the solutions to our problems are not that hard to comprehend. (6. *The Cinderella Principles*)

As the Robert Fulghum classic book, *All I Really Need To Know I Learned In Kindergarten* showed, the solutions to our so-called knotty problems are not that hard to comprehend. These solutions may be difficult to implement if we are not willing to surrender our pole positions on the Titanic of our global industrial civilization, but they may not be difficult to implement if we are given a blank slate to start with.

Step 7: Learn to err on the side of reverence towards creation, not disrespect. (7. *Consciousness is in Everything*)

In Anthropocentrism, the dominant view of Nature in our global industrial civilization, humans are the only moral beings with the rest of Nature divided into exploitable animals and materials to be manipulated and transformed for human purposes. This view leads to a quintessentially Climate HEATING relationship with Nature, while the opposite view leads to a Climate Healing relationship.

Step 8: Recognize that we are all returning home to who we really are. (8. *The Kindergarten Class Visit*)

This recognition that we are all on a journey home to our true nature helps foster both self compassion as well as compassion for and camaraderie with our fellow humans on the same journey. It also fosters compassion for the countless non-human victims of our violence.

Step 9: Recognize that we are not the dancers, but the danced. (9. *The Wishing Tree Story*)

Having faith that we are part of something larger than us helps us navigate through this difficult journey with equanimity.

Step 10: Humbly accept the gifts we have been given with gratitude. (10. *The Sloth Story*)

In this journey home to who we really are, we each have been given unique gifts that we can deploy to help ourselves and our fellow travelers. This is not the time to hanker after gifts that we haven't been given, but to make do with what we have been given.

Step 11: Willingly share these gifts with our earth community. (11. *The Unity Stew*)

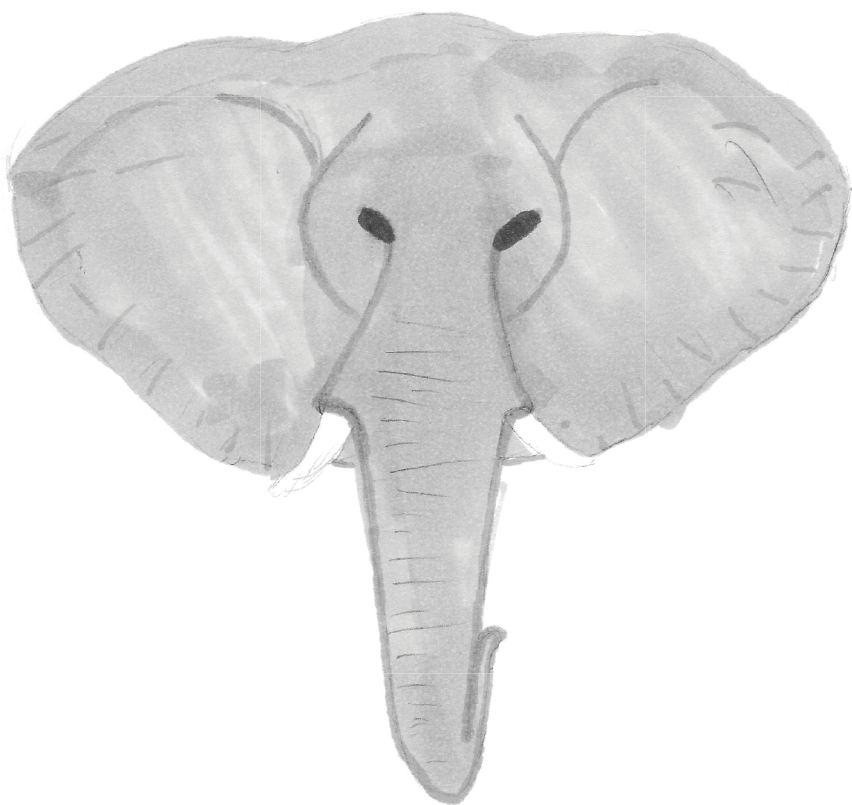
As the old African proverb goes, the best place to store your extra food is in the belly of your neighbor. In this time of ecological emergency, we will regret hoarding and not deploying our gifts as the predicted catastrophes unfold in the years to come. Do we plunge "all in" on this transformation or not?

Step 12: Having had a spiritual awakening as a result of these steps, carry this message to others and to practice these

principles in our lives. (12. *The Pinky Promise*)

Having gone through these steps, it is our duty to spread the gospel, so to speak. And so I shall!

With much love,
Sailesh Rao



The most amazing

Chapter 1

The Most Amazing Thing

I came home that December night in 2005, dog tired, plopped down on the sofa and turned on the TV. There was Vice President Al Gore talking about global warming to some activists in San Francisco. I was rooted to my seat, filled with horror and I told my wife, Jaine, that if half of what he is saying is true, I feel like I'm wasting my time working on making the internet even ten times faster. She said that if you think it is that important, why don't you look into it.

That's what I did.

Within three months, I realized that it was far worse than what Mr. Gore was saying. He was only looking at the impact of our energy demands on the planet, while neglecting our food and other consumer demands. Nevertheless, I wrote to Mr. Gore offering to be of help with his mission and got trained by him in Nashville in November of 2006. As part of this training, I had agreed to give his presentation at least ten times in a year.

Once I fulfilled my obligation, I founded the non-profit, Climate Healers in December of 2007. The goal of Climate Healers is to heal the climate as opposed to maintaining it in a high state of disrepair as the mainstream environmental community, including Mr. Gore, was framing it. They didn't want to touch the third rail of environmentalism

- our culture of consumerism, especially of animal foods. To give you an analogy, imagine that you have a lump the size of a coconut by the side of your head and a 1 degree Celsius fever to go with it. You go to the doctor and the doctor says,

"I'll make sure that your fever doesn't go over 2 degrees Celsius while you develop a second lump the size of a coconut on the other side of your head."

Wouldn't you think that this doctor is crazy and run away from him? But that's precisely how mainstream environmentalists are dealing with climate change. For the life of me, I couldn't understand why anyone was taking them seriously.

The more I looked into climate change, the more depressed I got. I was swimming against the current which was so strong that I didn't think there was anything I could do to prevent humanity from committing suicide in short order. I plumbed the depths of that depression at SAI sanctuary in the Western Ghats of India.

There was nothing wrong with that sanctuary. In fact, I had the sense of perfection at the sanctuary as every tree, plant, animal, bird and insect just lived and the sanctuary thrived. I was in awe of the perfection of nature as a systems design. I asked Pamela, the owner of SAI Sanctuary,

"How did you make this happen?"

She replied,

"We bought a coffee plantation, tore down the fences and gave it back to the animals. They did everything. They dropped seeds and new trees were born."

"Wow, that's all you had to do to bring the forest back?"

"Well, we had to do one more thing. We had to patrol the land and make sure that no human beings came inside!"

At that point, I felt really, really small as if I didn't even belong in my own home. I was born in that forest, just 200Km away from where I was standing, nearly five decades ago.

Were humans the only species that don't belong on Earth? If we take humans out, the planet thrives. When humans are added to the mix and lead their ordinary lives, the planet dies.

That's such a depressing story to tell about ourselves.

Later during that trip to SAI Sanctuary, I observed an elephant tearing branches off a tree, eating the leaves and throwing the branches away. I asked Pamela,

"Isn't that elephant destroying your sanctuary?"

She replied,

"No, wherever the elephant tears branches off trees, the sunlight streams down through that opening to nourish the underbrush. Without the elephant doing that, the forest canopy would be so thick that the underbrush would die. In fact, the elephant has no choice but to be in alignment with nature."

She confirmed to me once again that all other species are routinely aligned with nature, while Homo Sapiens is the only species that don't belong on Earth.

The next year, our granddaughter, Kimaya was born. I was living in California at that time, while she was born in Arizona. I went to see her when she was a month old, held her in my arms for the first time and she looked up at me and smiled. Kimaya has the genetic mix

of three continents, Asia, Africa and North America and I had the feeling that I was holding all of humanity in my arms. Her smile was a dazzling, knowing smile, as if she was saying,

"What do you mean I don't belong on Earth? I belong exactly as I am. You just haven't understood me yet."

I realized that this was the most amazing thing to have ever happened to me. I had to now rethink everything, assuming that humans are part of the same perfection of nature. I had to find a story in which humans belong exactly as we are, warts and all.

The answer was staring me in the face all along. As soon as we admit that humans possess the enormous power to change the climate of the planet, we automatically own the enormous responsibility to stabilize it and maintain it on behalf of all creation. We had been unknowingly HEATING the climate of the Earth for the past ten thousand years at least. By doing so, we prevented the Earth from going back to another ice age. Now it is well past time for us to transform and consciously begin healing the climate.

As Gus Speth said,

"Thirty years ago, I thought that the three major environmental problems were biodiversity loss, ecosystem collapse and climate change. And I thought that with thirty years of good science, we can solve these problems.

I was wrong.

The three major environmental problems are selfishness, greed and apathy. To solve these problems, we need a spiritual and cultural transformation. And we scientists don't know how to do that."

It required divine intervention instead.



move to Phoenix

Chapter 2

The Move to Phoenix

I began to see Kimaya regularly over the next year and a half before we moved permanently to Phoenix in 2012 to be close to her. Sri Aurobindo had said that prison life had taught him to see Lord Krishna in the jailers and in every rat. I was seeing Lord Krishna very clearly in Kimaya.

“Yada-yada hi dharmasya
Glanir bhavati bharata
Abhyuthanam adharmasya
Thadatmanam srijamy aham

Paritranaaya sadhunam
Vinashaya cha dushkritam
Dharma-samsthapanarthaya
Sambhavami Yuge Yuge”

—

“Whenever, O Bharata, righteousness declines
And unrighteousness takes hold, I manifest myself.

I manifest myself from time to time to defend the pious,
Destroy the wicked and strengthen righteousness.”

A year prior to Kimaya's birth, I had encountered Mr. Jani in Chicago, who had held my head in his hands, put one thumb on the center of my forehead and another at the back of my head and said,

"This is Lord Krishna talking to you through me. Your inspiration comes through here (pressing the back of my head) and your execution comes through here (pressing the center of my forehead). Do your work without any ego and let me do it through you."

While Mr. Jani's words ring true throughout the Bhagavad Gita, that Lord Krishna works through all of us, I was stunned that I felt Mr. Jani's thumb on my forehead for hours after he left. I still feel it every time I meditate.

As far as I am concerned, Kimaya is the avatar manifested upon earth to lead us through the transformation from a Climate HEATING civilization to a Climate Healing civilization. There was nothing anyone could do to dissuade me otherwise.

I resolved that I was going to do whatever this baby girl wanted, whenever she wanted it. If she wanted me to jump, I was going to jump. If she wanted me to dance, I was going to dance.

That resolution turned Kimaya into the greatest teacher that I ever had in my life. She not only turned my head around 180 degrees to see humans as an integral part of nature, she also helped me unlearn the falsehoods and violence that had been deeply ingrained in me through my cultural upbringing.

All I had to do was to let her lead and follow along with my eyes wide open. I tried to understand reality from her innocent perspective.

The truth shall set you free, indeed.

HEAT is Human Earth Animal Torture.

HEAL is Human Earth Animal Liberation.

To liberate ourselves from our Climate HEATing civilization and create a Climate Healing civilization, we must let a little child in our life lead us.



The Three
PROMISES

Chapter 3

The Three Promises

Life with Kimaya as the boss of my world was so much fun. She wanted to play with me whenever she came over to our home.

We played catch.

We played hide and seek.

We played chutes and ladders.

We hiked together on the desert trails around our home.

We played “Thenkela Pujela,” a rocking game that my grandfather had taught me. It goes like this:

“Thenkela Pujela
Tharaikku Neerpondu
Athaneku Neerpondu
Southeakaiku Neerpondu

Anchina Pole
Inchina Pole
Dum, dum, dum,
Dum, DUM!”

It is a Tulu song that speaks of water flowing here and there, nourishing trees and plants and ends with a coconut falling from the tree. To illustrate this, I would lie down on the ground, put Kimaya on my feet and rock her back and forth, left and right and then lift her up and let her fall into a big hug on my chest.

She loved that the most and constantly asked me to do that with her.

When she was about two years old, I made three promises to her to lay the foundations for our relationship:

1. She is the most amazing thing that ever happened to me and that will never, ever change,
2. I will always love her no matter what she does from now on, and
3. I will always tell her the truth and I will never, ever lie to her.

I made that third promise because I had found out that I had been lied to as a child, in my school textbooks, for heaven's sake! The protein myth and the calcium myth are still routinely drilled into children's heads even though adults ought to know that they are lying to children.

I consider lying to children to be a crime against humanity. I wish we lived in a society that didn't commit such crimes.

A couple of years after I made these three promises, Kimaya came to me and asked,

"Grandpa, are you sure that in your whole entire life, I am the most amazing thing that ever happened to you?"

I replied,

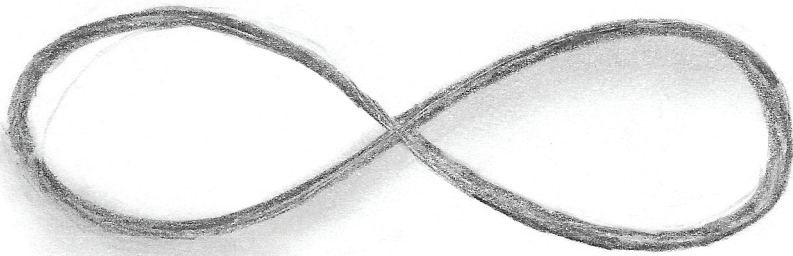
"Kimaya, that is the only thing I am really sure of."

Tag

Catch

Hide n' seek

Thenkela
pajela



Infinite
GAMES

Chapter 4

Infinite Games

Kimaya didn't like games in which there were winners and losers, unless she always won. She preferred games that went on forever - infinite games - until she decided to play something else.

One time, when we were playing hide and seek, she came to me and said,

"I don't like it when I can't find you. From now on, I am going to tell you where to hide."

And then she would pretend to look for me elsewhere until she decided to "find" me. It wasn't the finding that she was interested in, it was just playing the game.

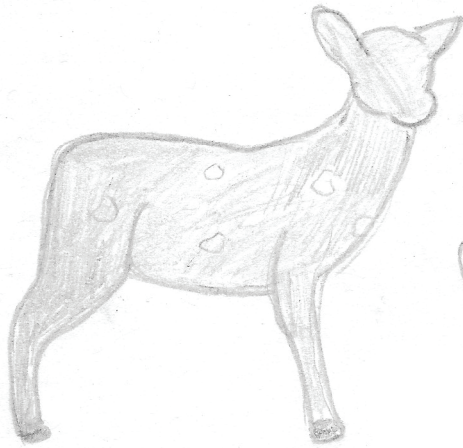
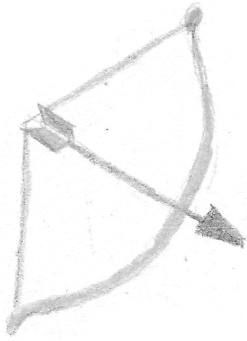
When we played catch around the kitchen center island, I, in the spirit of her liking for infinite games, pretended never to be able to catch her until she finally stopped. That worked until she was about five years old. After that, I really couldn't catch her as the turning radius of the center island was so sharp that she could go around it faster than me.

Kimaya's preference for infinite games extended to chutes and ladders, a board game that she loved to play. She would decide to

go down a ladder or go up a chute or go straight from finish to home so that the game doesn't end at all until she would get bored with it.

In our Climate HEATIng civilization, we tend to play finite games in which there is one winner and all others are "losers." In the Climate Healing civilization that we are called to create now, we should be playing infinite games, where the object of the game is to continue the game forever.

After all, that is what sustainability is all about. We want to thrive on this planet forever, don't we?



WHY

Dasaratha?!

Chapter 5

What is Wrong With King Dasaratha?

My relationship with Kimaya was that of a devotee to an avatar. I did whatever she wanted and I respected all her views.

I was proud of our Hindu epics, the Ramayana and the Mahabharata, and I found children's versions of these epics to read to her in bed.

However, before I could get through even the first chapter of the Ramayana, she stopped me sternly and said,

"What is wrong with King Dasaratha?"

I was puzzled. I asked,

"What do you mean?"

"Why is he shooting a deer? That deer was just drinking water from the river and he goes and shoots it? What is wrong with him?"

And then she said,

"Don't ever read stories like these to me again."

That was the end of the epics as far as she was concerned. She didn't

want to hear about violence towards animals even if it was meant to be taken symbolically.



Chapter 6

The Cinderella Principles

The Lily James version of Cinderella was released in 2015 when Kimaya was just 4 years old. One day after the release, I was babysitting her and she insisted that I take her to see the movie right away.

I agreed. I thought I would be bored watching yet another remake of the familiar story. However, within the first ten minutes of the movie, I sat up and started paying close attention when Cinderella said,

“Have courage, be kind and all will be well.”

That simple statement captured in a nutshell what everyone should do if we wish to thrive on this planet. It takes courage to be kind when others are routinely cruel around you.

I realized at that point that this movie was for me and not just for her.

Cinderella made two other statements that form the basis of our work at Climate Healers. She said,

“Just because it is what is done doesn’t mean that it is what should be done.”

Just because we have been doing something all along doesn’t

mean we should continue doing it. It is our responsibility to question our culture and traditions and renew them every now and then.

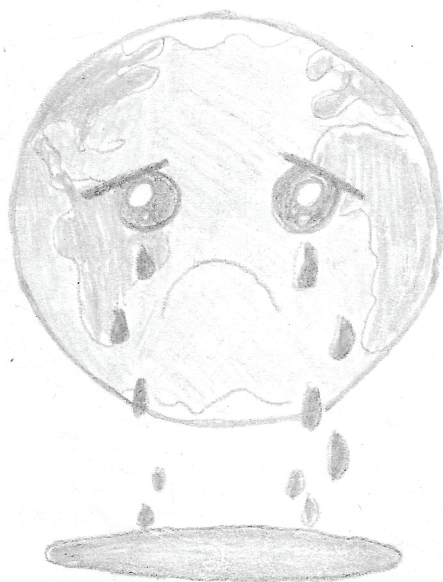
The last statement was,

“Imagine the world as it should be and act for it.”

Imagine the world that you want and work for it, instead of going along with the world as it is.

I included these three Cinderella principles in my presentation at the European Union parliament later that year to much ovation. They form the cornerstone of our work at Climate Healers.

the EARTH hurts...



PLEASE SEE

the

OBVIOUS!

Chapter 7

Consciousness is in Everything

Kimaya saw emotions and feelings not just in everyone, but also in everything. Once she accompanied me to give a lecture on climate change at a library in Prescott, Arizona, two hours from our home in Phoenix. She patiently sat through the lecture and then we returned home.

Once home, I discovered that I had forgotten the power adapter for my laptop at the library. I tend to use devices until they literally stop working and therefore, my laptop was quite useless without a power adapter as the battery couldn't hold much charge.

I was debating whether to go back to Prescott and pick up my power adapter, a 4 hour round trip, or to buy a substitute in Phoenix for \$20. I asked Kimaya what I should do.

Her reply was immediate,

"Grandpa, you have to go back and get it from the library. That power adapter must be sad that it is not with the laptop."

And that's what we did. We spent four hours driving back and forth because in her view, emotions and feelings are in everything, not just everyone. This is in alignment with the Vedantic worldview that

consciousness is in everything.

Later that year, I was returning back from the UN Climate Change meeting in Paris, France when I encountered a couple and their two children at the international airport. The husband was on his phone and walked off onto an inclined moving escalator, while the mother was standing at the foot of the escalator with a roll-on bag, a baby carriage with their infant son and their daughter, who seemed to be about Kimaya's age. She asked me,

"Sir, can you please help me?"

I replied,

"Of course. Would you like me to take the bag for you?"

She said,

"No, can you please hold my daughter through the escalator."

I held her daughter by the hand and stepped on the escalator. At that moment, I felt the same outpouring of love and affection that I normally feel when I hold Kimaya by the hand. There was absolutely no difference.

From that point on, I became conscious that every child in the world is my grandchild and that I'm working to heal the climate for all of them, not just Kimaya.

The Kindergarten
VISIT



Would YOU
deliberately hurt
an
animal?

Chapter 8

The Kindergarten Class Visit

As a present, Kimaya received a necklace with the word, "Vegan" written on it. When she got it, she asked me if I would come to her Kindergarten class and explain to her friends what "Vegan" means. I told her that if her teacher allowed it, I would be happy to do that.

She got permission from her teacher and I went to her class the next day. Her friends gathered around me and asked,

"What does 'Vegan' mean?"

I said,

"Imagine that a bunny rabbit hops into this room. How many of you would play with the rabbit?"

"Oh, we all would play with the rabbit!"

"How many of you would hurt the rabbit?"

"Oh, we would never hurt the rabbit!"

I said,

"Then, you are all Vegan. Vegan means that you wouldn't knowingly hurt innocent animals unnecessarily."

The children were elated.

Later that week, Jaine got a call from the Principal to tell me never to do that again. Apparently, the children went home and told their parents that they were all Vegan. The parents called the Principal to complain.

A few weeks later, Kimaya's teacher called me to ask if I would come back to class and talk about India. I agreed.

The Principal called Jaine and asked that I never mention the word Vegan in class. I agreed again.

I went to school with my laptop and was setting it up when the Principal walked into class. I was surrounded by the children and the only thing they wanted to talk about was Veganism and how their parents were not allowing them to be Vegan.

The Principal realized that there was nothing I could do about it. It was the children who wanted to talk about Veganism, not me.

A few months later, the Principal watched the documentary *What The Health* and turned Vegan as well.



Chapter 9

The Story of the Wishing Tree

During my Kindergarten class visit, Kimaya asked me to tell her friends the wishing tree story. This was one of her favorite stories.

The story begins with children playing with sticks, stones and rag dolls on the floor of their hut in the middle of the forest. Their uncle comes to visit them and he says,

“Hey, why are you playing with sticks and stones when the wishing tree is right outside your hut? Go out under the tree and wish for anything you want and it will give it to you. Then you can be playing with real toys instead of just sticks and stones.”

The children don't believe him. How can there be a tree that gives you anything you want?

They wait until the uncle leaves and then they rush to the tree and start wishing.

They wish for sweets and they get them. They gorge on the sweets and get stomach aches.

They wish for toys and they get them. They play with the toys and get bored.

They wish for fancier toys. That leads to greater boredom.

There was something about the tree that they did not understand. The tree grants you what you wish for and along with it comes the exact opposite.

The children didn't know that. All they knew is that they couldn't stop wishing under the tree and the more they wished, the more miserable they were.

Then they get to be young men and women and now they are wishing for what young men and women wish for. They get their wishes along with their opposites. They are now even more miserable.

Then they become old men and women. They gather under the tree in three different groups. The first group says,

"We were so happy when we didn't know about this tree. This has all been a hoax and a farce."

They were fools for they understood nothing about the tree.

The second group says,

"We must have been wishing for all the wrong things. If we could go back and wish for different things, we would have been a lot happier."

They were bigger fools for they understood less than nothing about the tree.

The third group was the most foolish of the lot for they say,

"We are so miserable that we wish we were dead."

The tree grants them the wish and they are immediately reborn underneath the tree for it always grants wishes along with their opposites.

Meanwhile, a lame child was watching all this from inside the window of the hut. He also wanted to go out under the tree and wished for a good leg so that he could walk properly, but there was such a crowd of people under the tree that he couldn't get through.

He stood there and he watched and he saw how the tree was making everybody miserable. The people who were wishing were miserable. Those who were trying to get to the tree were miserable. And all the animals were suffering because of all the wishing.

Then he had a flash of insight. He understood the tree. With that understanding, he began to feel a well of compassion come from within him for all the suffering under the tree. He lost the desire to wish and became detached from the tree. He was perfectly happy with his leg as it was. And with that, he was the happiest of the lot.

The lame child's insight is this. The wishing tree makes you miserable if you wish for yourself. But if you wish for the benefit of others and ask for nothing from the tree for yourself, then you can be perfectly happy wishing under the tree and everyone would be happy because of your wishing.



The *sloth* story

Chapter 10

The Story of the Sloths

It was frequently my job to put Kimaya to bed and I always read or told her a story until she dozed off. Since she couldn't stand violence towards anyone, I had to change common fairy tales to read them to her since almost all of them are violent.

But the best stories were the ones we made up. She loved stories about animals and of course, every animal had to be named. More often than not, she wanted one of the animals named after herself.

Her all time favorite story is the one we made up about the Sloth family. It goes like this:

A family of sloths, Papa Sloth, Mama Sloth and Baby Sloth were living up a tree in the forest. Every morning, Mama used to get up early in the morning and fetch breakfast for the baby. One morning, Mama was not feeling well and she woke up Papa and asked if he would fetch breakfast for the baby.

He said,

"All right."

And off he went sleepily. But instead of going this way, he went

that way. He returned later with a pear and handed it to Baby.

Baby said,

"What is this?"

Papa said,

"It's a pear."

"But Mama always brings me a mango for breakfast. I don't want a pear."

Mama said,

"Which way did you go? There was a mango tree nearby if you went this way."

"Well, I went that way."

Baby started whining,

"Please bring me a mango for breakfast. I don't want to eat a pear!"

Papa said,

"OK, but it's going to take me 6 hours. 1 hour to climb down from this tree, 1 hour to get to the mango tree, 1 hour to climb up the mango tree and then double it all for the trip back."

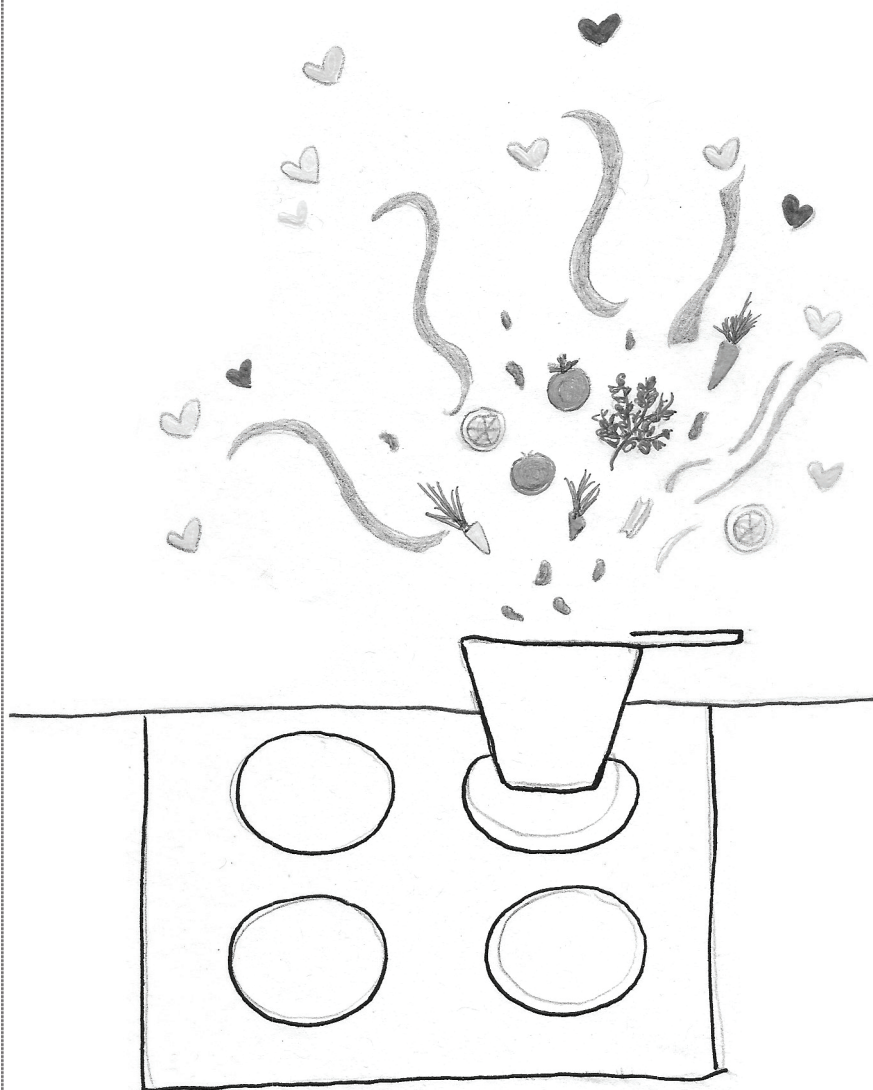
Baby was shocked,

"What, six hours?? Six HOURS!!!

Oh, all right, just give me the pear, I'll eat it."

Kimaya would laugh out loud. She never got tired of this story.

INGREDIENTS : LEGUMES, VEGGIES,
GRAINS, HERBS, TUMERIC, LOVE



Unity Stew ♥

Chapter 11

The Unity Stew

Kimaya liked to help me cook. She cut vegetables, ground up spices, washed the rice or lentils and even poured the idlis at times. But above all, she loved to stir the pot when we were making soup.

She loved her vegetable soup. We used to make it with potatoes, carrots, greens and a hearty onion, tomato and ginger base. Then she asked me to add beans. She loved that bean and vegetable soup garnished with dill.

After eating this bean and vegetable soup a few times, she asked me to add pasta or some grains. At that point, I realized that we had created a complete meal, a stew not just a soup.

We experimented with various bean, grain, vegetable and herb combinations. The result is the Unity Stew recipe template:

Ingredients

- **2 cups cooked legumes** (*red/black/pinto beans or lentils*)
- **2 cups mixed vegetables**, cut and cubed (*typically potatoes, carrots, celery, sweet potatoes, squash, pumpkin, etc.*)
- **1 cup grains** (*whole grain pasta, brown rice, barley etc.*)
- **1 medium onion**
- **1 tomato**
- **Juice of 1 lime or lemon**
- **½ inch stick of ginger**
- **1 cup chopped herbs and greens** (*rosemary, thyme, cilantro, spinach, kale, chard, etc.*)
- **salt and spices**, to taste
- **½ tsp turmeric powder**
- **pinch of asafetida**
- **4 cups water**

Recipe

Puree onion, tomato and ginger into a paste.

Bring water to boil, add cut vegetables, onion-tomato-ginger paste, turmeric, lemon juice, asafetida, spices and salt. *(The ginger and asafetida serve to alleviate "gasiness" from the beans and lentils.)* Simmer until vegetables are cooked.

Add cooked beans, herbs and greens, and grains. Simmer for 10 minutes or until grains are cooked. Set stew to cool.

Makes about 5 servings.

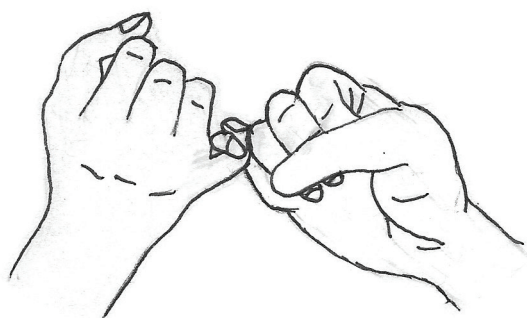
This is the stew that is being served at Food Healers stations today. It fills you up and heals you, which is the first thing we all need to do, if we wish to collectively heal the planet. This is the "put on your own mask first before helping others" oxygen mask rule: we need to take care of each other and heal ourselves first before helping the planet to heal.

When I look around me, I see rich, unhealthy, overfed people or poor, unhealthy, underfed people. It's as if our species is the only one that doesn't know how to feed itself, even though we are taking six times as much food as we need from the planet. Of course, we do know that whole-foods, plant-based Vegan eating would not only heal our species, but also return enough land and the ocean back to nature to heal the planet.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Kimaya and I began cooking up versions of this Unity Stew and serving it to those who had lost their jobs in Phoenix, for free. Then it occurred to me that if a community can

always provide healthy food for free to its members, that community would escape the clutches of its enslavement and heal itself.

It is time to make this happen across all communities around the world. That would signal our intent to address climate change seriously. The Unity Stew was the genesis of Food Healers and World Food Healers day that was first celebrated on November 19, 2022, Kimaya's 12th birthday.



pinky Promise



Chapter 12

The Pinky Promise

From the outset of my work at Climate Healers, I was watching the loss of wild animals as the leading indicator for how fast we need to transform from a Climate HEATING civilization to a Climate Healing civilization. This is because everything we do to the environment impacts wild animals.

We pollute their water and take away their habitats, mainly to grow our domestic animals. Our domestic animals now consume more than 10 times as much food as all the wild animals did 10,000 years ago. As a result, wild animals are dying off exponentially.

The World Wildlife Fund has been documenting the loss of wild animals since 1970. Their Living Planet Reports are published every two years and report statistics on the loss of wild animals with a four year time lag. LPR 2014 reported that the wild animal population decreased by 52% between 1970 and 2010.

When that report came out in 2014, I worked out that if the loss of wild animals was proportional to the size of the global economy, we were on track to wipe out almost 100% of wild animals by 2026. I was shocked by that calculation, but hesitated to raise a public alarm about it because my model was truly crude.

I waited for the next report. LPR 2016 came out in Aug 2016 and it stated that the wild animal population decreased by 58% between 1970 and 2012.

I was numb with grief and regret. Why did I wait two years to raise the alarm? My earlier calculations were spot on.

That night, I was reading Ruby Roth's storybook *That's Why We Don't Eat Animals* to Kimaya in bed. At the end of the story, she put her head on my shoulder and said,

"Grandpa, who were the first human beings?"

Now, that's a very deep question that's difficult to answer truthfully. I thought about how I could explain Darwin's scientific theory to a five-year-old girl. Then I said,

"Imagine that you are standing on the street and holding your mama by your hand. You ask your mama to bring her mama to stand by her side. And so on, so that you create a long line of mothers on this side of the street.

On the other side of the street, you ask a chimpanzee to do the same thing with her mother, her grandmother and so on.

By the time these two lines go from Phoenix to Tucson, they would merge. Because both lines are going to say, 'Hey, that's my mama too!'"

Kimaya sat up in bed immediately. She said,

"WHAT?? Are you telling me that animals are my family?"

I replied,

"Now that you put it that way, yes they are your family."

Until then, I knew the scientific theory of evolution, but hadn't put it together like that. For her, "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam" or "All life is one family" became visceral. Then, she started bawling her eyes out,

"Why are people eating my family? Grandpa, make them stop, make them stop! They are eating my family!"

She started naming names of people she knows who were eating her family. I realized that in keeping my promise to always tell her the truth, I had created a world full of monsters for my precious granddaughter. Perhaps, every child goes through this phase at some point in their life.

I was grief-stricken. My heart was being wrenched out of my chest hearing her cries. I tried to console her,

"Kimaya, please don't cry. I'm working on it. In fact, it's my job to make them stop."

She stopped crying and looked at me wide eyed,

"WHAT? This is your job? This is your job? You know you haven't done your job!"

Then she shook her finger in my face — "DO YOUR JOB!"

And followed it up with,

"When will you do your job?"

I blurted out,

"I better do it by 2026 or else we are going to be in big trouble."

She said,

“Will you promise me that?”

“Sure, I'll promise you that.”

“Will you give me a pinky promise?”

I had no idea what a pinky promise meant. I said,

“OK, I'll give you a pinky promise.”

She told me to hold out my pinky, locked her pinky in mine and said,

“You can never ever break a pinky promise.”

Then she put her head on my shoulder and went to sleep.

And I couldn't sleep. I realized that I had made a very serious promise to a little girl on behalf of my generation and I better figure out how to keep it.

I finally dozed off and woke up knowing that as a systems engineer, I'm uniquely qualified to take on the responsibility for creating a Vegan World by 2026.

Later on, the Climate Bathtub model that I created for the UN COP26 climate change meeting in Glasgow confirmed that at a bare minimum, the world needs to go largely Vegan by 2026 if we wish to avert runaway climate change as well.

As an engineer, I deal with probabilities, not certainties. I know that the odds are not good for a soft landing for our Climate HEATING civilization. However, we are called to be Captain Sullenbergers in this possible “Miracle on the Hudson” moment for our civilization.

Captain Sullenberger told his passengers and crew to “Brace for Impact,” and miraculously landed his US Airways plane with 155 passengers on the Hudson river in 2009 even after his plane’s engines had been accidentally killed by a flock of migrating Canadian geese. Following his fine example, Food Healers are calling for free, healthy whole foods, plant based Vegan meals for all, regardless of their race, color, creed or nation so that we may envelope our fellow humans with love as we do our best to create a soft landing for this Climate HEATING civilization. In the process, we can also prepare the infrastructure and institutions for a Climate Healing civilization to take its place.

Faith and action are the best antidotes for apathy and despair.

This is how Kimaya taught me what to do, how to do it and gave me a timeline for doing my job at Climate Healers. I think that she did more by the time she turned six to solve climate change than all the world’s governments combined.

May a little child in your life help you find the inspiration to do your part in our ongoing transformation from a Climate HEATING civilization to a Climate Healing civilization.

I’m apprehensive but also excited to be participating in this Greatest Transformation in Human History as it unfolds over the next few years with all of you, my amazing fellow human beings!

Please HELP us —

Heal the planet.

Eat plants.

Love animals.

Plant trees.

Yes, it's that simple.

*“... until we see
the obvious and
stop hiding behind
culture, we won’t
solve the problem.”*

- Glen Merzer

Epilogue

The Creator Checks in on Earth — By Glen Merzer

Let's imagine what would happen if the Creator came back to visit Earth and had a few minutes to point out what we're doing wrong. Let's say She met with the head statistician of the UN who knows everything we're doing on the Earth. Here's how that dialogue might go.

—

CREATOR: Well, you know I haven't checked in on the Earth for 50,000 years. I was always very proud of the beautiful blue-green Earth and also very proud of you human beings. Way back in the beginning, you were already developing big brains and I predicted great things from you.

But I understand there's been a problem and you've been overheating the Earth with too much greenhouse gases?

UN GUY: Yeah, we have more carbon dioxide in the atmosphere every year. We're approaching unsustainable levels. We have more deadly storms and fires and heat. Pretty soon we won't be able to breathe.

CREATOR: I remember that I created six trillion trees that drink carbon dioxide, so what seems to be the problem?

UN GUY: Well, six trillion trees would have solved the problem, but we

don't have six trillion trees anymore; we just have three trillion.

CREATOR: You mean to say that you lost three trillion trees? How did you do that? Is that because of this coal industry that I have heard about?

UN GUY: Well, actually the coal industry hasn't cost us that many trees. Sometimes we dig up a mountain. It doesn't look very nice and we lose some trees, but not much. So our tree loss is not because of the coal industry.

CREATOR: Well, is it because of the oil industry? Is that what's causing all that tree loss?

UN GUY: No, the oil industry doesn't cost us that many trees. Sometimes we have oil spills. We had a terrible spill in the Gulf of Mexico a few years ago with many millions of barrels of oil pouring into the water.

CREATOR: It comes out in barrels?

UN GUY: No, but that's how we like to think of it.

CREATOR: Well, that must've been very bad for the fish. I remember that I created a whole lot of fish.

UN GUY: No, actually, it was good for the fish. When we had the big oil spill, a lot of the fish came back.

CREATOR: That's odd. I remember that when I created fish, they didn't drink oil. Why did you wind up with more fish when you spilled oil into the gulf?

UN GUY: You see, when the oil spill happened, we humans stopped fishing, so that brought back the fish. The fish may not like oil, but they like oil a lot better than they like us.

CREATOR: Wait a minute. Hold on here! I remember that I created you to live in the forests. I created you as land animals—cousins to the apes, chimps, and gorillas. Do chimps and gorillas eat fish?

UN GUY: No, of course not.

CREATOR: So why do you people eat fish?

UN GUY: Well, it's part of our culture.

CREATOR: Culture? I don't remember creating culture.

UN GUY: You didn't. We did.

CREATOR: What's the purpose of culture?

UN GUY: The purpose of culture is to proudly carry on doing things from one generation to the next even when we know they are wrong.

CREATOR: What kind of things do people proudly carry on doing because of culture?

UN GUY: Oh, cultures have given us art and music and dance as well as, you know, some other stuff on the violent side like slavery, racism, bullfighting, fishing, and raising animals to kill them. Have you ever seen Irish step dancing? It is terrific.

CREATOR: So, because of your culture, you've been eating fish? What has this done to the oceans?

UN GUY: Oh, we're destroying all the oceans because we eat fish.

CREATOR: All the oceans? That's about 70% of the earth!

UN GUY: Give or take. They're getting bigger now because of global warming.

CREATOR: How much of your food do you get from fish?

UN GUY: About 3% of our food.

CREATOR: So, you've destroyed all of the oceans to get just 3% of your food? How many fish do you kill every year?

UN GUY: Oh, trillions of them. We kill a lot more than we eat, because that's how nets work. The nets also kill dolphins and whales, which aren't technically fish. And we kill and eat lobsters and crabs, which also aren't fish. Anything in the ocean is fair game. We feed a lot of the fish to cows. Cows eat more fish than we do.

CREATOR: I don't remember creating cows.

UN GUY: Right, you created oxen but we kind of fattened them up and softened them up and turned them into cows to make them taste better.

CREATOR: So how many cows do you have now? Do you have hundreds of these cows?

UN GUY: We now have 1.5 billion cows. Eating them is part of our culture.

CREATOR: 1.5 billion? So how much of the Earth's land do cows take up?

UN GUY: We've turned over about 37% of the Earth's land to the cows and then another 6% we use to grow grain to feed to the cows.

CREATOR: Wait. Let me get this straight. You are using 43% of the Earth's land to grow cows?

UN GUY: That's right. They weigh about 1600 pounds each so they have to eat a lot of grass on top of the fish and the chicken manure and whatever else we can feed them.

CREATOR: You feed chicken manure to cows?

UN GUY: It's called recycling.

CREATOR: So 43% of the beautiful land on Earth is for the cows? Is that what happened to the 3 trillion trees?

UN GUY: Right, we had to chop down the 3 trillion trees and burn all the vegetation when we gave 43% of the Earth's land to the cows.

CREATOR: So I guess you must get most of your food from all these cows you eat and all the other animals you eat?

UN GUY: No, just 12%.

CREATOR: You're telling me you're destroying the planet I created in order to get only 12% of your food?

UN GUY: Plus the 3% from the fish, so to be fair, that's 15%

CREATOR: Have you no sense of shame?

UN GUY: I don't like to brag, but we've overcome it.

CREATOR: What happened to all the other animals I created on that land: tigers, leopards, giraffes, elephants?

UN GUY: Oh, we've been killing them. Between 1970 and 2016, we eliminated two-thirds of the ones that were left. We are on track to wipe out almost all of them by 2026.

CREATOR: And you do this because of this culture thing?

UN GUY: Yes, we do this because, you know, our culture revolves around eating animals. And hunting some we don't even eat.

CREATOR: Have you considered getting rid of culture?

UN GUY: Can't. The tourist industry depends on it. Every culture is a little bit different. People find that very charming. But most of them encourage us to eat cows.

CREATOR: I remember that I created you people to get hungry when you look at an apple. Do you get hungry when you look at a cow?

UN GUY: Of course not! Nobody gets hungry when they look at a cow!

CREATOR: Isn't that a clue?

UN GUY: Respectfully, you didn't create us to be a subtle species.

CREATOR: It's a little astonishing that you would turn over 43% of the land just to grow these cows that you eat.

UN GUY: We don't only eat them. We also drink their milk.

CREATOR: You've got to be kidding me? Baby humans drink the milk of cows?

UN GUY: Not just the babies. Adults, too.

CREATOR: You're pulling my leg?

UN GUY: I'm dead serious.

CREATOR: You are saying that fully grown humans— ?

UN GUY: Yes. Drink milk. And we turn it into all kinds of cheeses and get hooked on them.

CREATOR: Do you people have schools? Any education at all?

UN GUY: Yes, we do. And the textbooks in those schools are a proud part of our culture.

CREATOR: There we go again. And so I'll bet the text books teach you to eat cows and drink their milk?

UN GUY: You're catching on quick.

CREATOR: But doesn't it make you people fat and sick to eat 1600-pound animals and drink their milk?

UN GUY: You don't know the half of it. We spend all the money we make on doctors, and we fight about who should pay for it. There are some very big industries making a boatload of money off our diseases.

CREATOR: So why on Earth do you keep doing this?

UN GUY: I told you already.

CREATOR: Culture.

UN GUY: Right.

CREATOR: I was under the impression the last time I checked in on you that you were growing really big brains.

UN GUY: Yeah. Big enough to create culture. I guess not quite big enough to figure out what's wrong with it. We're kind of stuck in-between.

CREATOR: And now the Earth's atmosphere is overheating.

UN GUY: Yup.

CREATOR: And you like to tell each other that it's because of burning fossil fuels instead of the larger truth that it's because of what you've done to the oceans and to the land?

UN GUY: Yup. Because the fossil fuel industry isn't—

CREATOR: A big part of your culture.

UN GUY: Right. Nobody really celebrates gas stations. But food—

CREATOR: That's a big part of your culture.

UN GUY: Right. Can't question that.

CREATOR: Can't culture change? Do you still have slavery, racism, bullfighting?

UN GUY: We are working very hard to eradicate those things. We know they are wrong. I promise you that they will end, and soon.

CREATOR: Then promise me that you will end the culture of people eating animals and drinking their milk. I created you humans to protect the animals, not eat them. You need to change it, quick.

UN GUY: Change is hard for us. It takes us time.

CREATOR: You don't have much time because you are destroying the Earth, remember? Until you see the obvious and stop hiding behind culture, you won't solve the problem.

Listen to me now: the Earth is dying fast and I've got other worlds to check in on. You humans need to do your job, return the earth to the animals and the trees. Eat plants just like your cousins who are smarter than you think and would never dream of eating cows.

Let's get it done by 2026 and save the Earth.

Pinky Promise?

UN GUY: Pinky Promise!

—

So, I think that the Creator in a few minutes could help us understand that the burning of fossil fuels is a smaller part of the problem. The larger part is what we've done to the Earth. We've destroyed the oceans because we eat fish; we've destroyed the land and decimated the forests because we eat cows, which are not our food.

In the words of the Creator, until we see the obvious and stop hiding behind our culture, we won't solve the problem.

Sincerely,
Glen Merzer

—

Clean Plant Heal

Dump Dump Dump
Burn Burn Burn
Kill Kill Kill
The Climate is heating.
I wonder why...

Dump Dump Dump
Burn Burn Burn
Kill Kill Kill
The Arctic is melting.
I wonder why...

Dump Dump Dump
Burn Burn Burn
Kill Kill Kill
The Corals are bleaching.
I wonder why...

Dump Dump Dump

Burn Burn Burn

Kill Kill Kill

Our planet is dying.

I wonder why...

That's all more than enough to make Mother Earth cry.

Clean Clean Clean

Plant Plant Plant

Heal Heal Heal

Wow - Is the Climate cooling?

I think I know why.

Clean Clean Clean

Plant Plant Plant

Heal Heal Heal

Wow — is the Arctic freezing?

I think I know why.

Clean Clean Clean

Plant Plant Plant

Heal Heal Heal

Wow — are the Corals teeming?

I think I know why.

Clean Clean Clean

Plant Plant Plant

Heal Heal Heal

Wow — is the Earth healing?

I think I know why.

'Cause we banded together as one, do or die!

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I fervently pray that Kimaya and her generation will eventually forgive me and my generation for being so slow in seeing that light.

The Pinky Promise is the touching story of how a little girl turned her grandfather's life around and guided him on his career path at Climate Healers with a vision to transform humanity into a compassionate, climate harmonizing, caretaker species – "Homo Ahimsa"

"This book is truly a sacred and powerful prayer to come and stand beside us and find a better way."

*- Judy McCoy Carman, author of Homo Ahimsa:
Who we Really are and how we're going to save the world
and Peace to All Beings: Veggie Soup for the Chicken's Soul*

"The Pinky Promise is a reminder that the solutions to the current environmental disaster are simple enough to be understood by even children, if we shared their clarity of wisdom."

*- Keegan Kuhn, co-director
of Cowspiracy and What The Health*

"Facing the reality of climate change can evoke feelings of helplessness. But The Pinky Promise shows us another, more hopeful path, and helps us find the innocence, humility and courage that we so greatly need in these times."

*- John and Ocean Robbins,
President and CEO of Food Revolution Network*



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